# APPENDIX J
# Management of Ground, Weather and Light

The below guidelines are not a change to playing conditions, yet have been provided so that umpires, players and coaches know what to expect in the case of Ground, Weather or Light issues (GWL).

Underpinning the below guidelines is the premise that at all times umpires will look to maximise play. The overriding stipulation however is that the safety of participants is paramount, and if in the umpire's opinion the conditions are dangerous or unreasonable for the batsmen, fielders or umpires, then play will not continue as per Laws 2.7 & 2.8).

Once the Toss has occurred, the preparation and maintenance of the pitch and outfield is in the umpires' control. This will however be managed in close consultation with the ground staff where applicable.

- At all times during a match, the umpires will seek to apply a consistent approach to GWL judgement with any interaction with ground staff explained to captains.
- Once the decision has been made to place covers on the pitch, this will be done with a minimum of delay (if required mid-over then it will be done immediately)
- When the covers are on, umpires will diligently monitor the prevailing conditions. It can be expected that an inspection of the conditions will occur at least once every 15 minutes to assess any improvement/deterioration. For briefer interruptions, the umpires may not even leave the field of play.
- Once a break in the weather is identified, every effort should be made to accelerate the resumption of play in conjunction with ground staff when possible.
- When assessing the fitness for play, the umpires should check and be satisfied that:
    - The bowler's run-ups, specifically at the take-off point and through the crease, provide a reasonable foothold;
    - The outfield is free from any potholes, significant undulations, or excessively wet or damaged areas that would deny the fielders the power of free movement. Note that areas with small puddles or small water logged areas where fielders might slip should not be considered dangerous or unreasonable. It will be expected that fielders can field around these areas and they don't necessarily have to enter the affected area;
    - The pitch and wicket block will allow the batsmen to play their shots and run between wickets;
    - If it actively drizzling or raining the above three criteria are satisfied at all times and that there will be no significant damage to the pitch with the compounding effect of the rainfall.
- When a restart time is decided upon, umpires will advise both captains as soon as possible to enable team preparations. If conditions are improving but not yet adequate to resume play, umpires will try to provide the captains with an indication of when a resumption of play is likely to further assist participating teams. The assumption is that players will be ready to resume play immediately once the ground is ready.
- The scorers will be notified of the resumption time, and where applicable the revised number of overs as soon as possible.
- When Duckworth/Lewis/Stern is in use, the D/L/S operator will be required to produce new par-score sheets following any reduction in overs, which must be checked with the umpires prior to being circulated to teams and stakeholders.
- The umpires will communicate all information to the captains, who are subsequently responsible for relaying the information to their team.
- The umpires may instruct the ground staff to use any available equipment that they believe will assist in preparing the ground for play. This includes the use of matting which can be applied on the wicket block and outfield in order to improve the suitability for play to continue.

**Lightning/Thunderstorm**

Should thunderstorms be prevalent on match day the umpires shall apply the 30/30 rule to determine whether play should be suspended and when it is safe to resume. When lightning is sighted, the umpires shall count

the seconds between the flash of lightning and the sound of thunder. If the time between lightning and thunder is less than 30 seconds play will be suspended immediately for a minimum of 30 minutes and must not resume until 30 minutes after the last audible thunder.

**Excessive Heat**

The CT Community Competitions Administrator and/or delegate shall have the discretionary power to cancel all play in all matches in any grade on a particular day when excessively hot weather either in the lead up to or during match is anticipated to significantly impact the health and wellbeing of players competing in a match. For a scheduled Two-Day match, this may be either the first or the second day.

The CT Community Competitions Administrator and/or delegate shall have the discretionary power to vary the start time and/or number of overs to be bowled in a particular match, or all matches in a particular grade. Participating in hot conditions will affect different individuals to different extents and differing ways. Factors which can influence the effect on different individuals include:

- Individuals level of fitness and general health;
- The preparation of the individual has undertaken in the lead-up to the match;
- Whether, or how many times the individual has participated in cricket (or other strenuous activities) in the days prior to the day of the match in which he/she is now participating;
- Age of the individual;
- The measures the participant takes to ensure proper re-hydration during and after participating.

The responsibility for ensuring the safety of individual participants is primarily the responsibility of Clubs and the individual themselves. To ensure participant safety, clubs should:

- Monitor participants and ensure that individuals at particular risk do not take part in conditions in which they are at undue risk;
- Place no pressure on any participant to refrain from withdrawing from any match, or day of a match, or part of a day, for health reasons;
- Ensure participants have every opportunity under the Laws and By-Laws to re-hydrate during and after participation.

Guidelines for Umpires:

- The By-Laws provide for drinks to be taken more than twice per session in excessive hot weather conditions. The number of drinks breaks in a session may be increased, provided, only that the periods of play between drinks, or between interval and drinks, are no less than 35 minutes.

No player is forced by Cricket Tasmania to participate in any match and Clubs shall place no pressure on any participant if he/she considers withdrawing from any part of a match for health reasons.

**Smoke**

Cricket Tasmania's policy is for decisions on playing cricket in smoke-affected areas to be made by the appointed umpires (or coaches if no umpires have been appointed) at individual venues, as for other weather events such as rain, lightning or poor light. The Laws of Cricket (2022 code) specify the umpires' role in determining each ground's fitness for play in Law 2.7 & 2.8.

Cricket Tasmania will only seek to cancel or abandon all games for the day in exceptional circumstances such as an active bushfire causing road closures and/or threatening multiple venues, evacuation notices and public health alerts for people to stay indoors.

**Recommendations:**

In order to support decision-making, Cricket Tasmania makes the following recommendations:

1. Players or umpires with pre-existing cardio-respiratory conditions, including asthma, must take additional precautions when outdoors in smoky conditions. Participants with these conditions will often demonstrate symptoms of being affected by smoke earlier than others, and may experience wheezing, chest tightness and difficulty breathing. They should follow their asthma action plan, or their plan for managing flare-ups of other conditions. If they don't have a plan they should see their GP to prepare one.

2. Play should be delayed or suspended where smoke has an impact on player and/or umpire visibility. This includes picking the ball up out of the background, and the entire playing surface being visible.
3. Play should be delayed or suspended when any players and/or umpires are demonstrating physical symptoms of being affected by smoke. This includes itchy or burning eyes, sore throat, runny nose and a cough.

4. Resources such as the AirRater app and the EPA's Real Time Air Quality Data can be used to provide a snapshot of the air quality as measured at base stations around the state. These tools measure the concentration of smoke particles in micrograms per cubic metre. Two readings are typically provided, a $PM^{10}$ measurement for the concentration of large particles (usually dust, sea salt or gases) and a $PM^{2.5}$ measurements for the concentration of small particles (typically smoke).

   The higher the $PM^{2.5}$ reading the greater the concentration of smoke particles in an area. Cricket Tasmania proposes the following ratings scale to assist in evaluating smoke particle density and the likelihood of it impacting on participant safety:

   i. A $PM^{2.5}$ measurements of 25 micrograms per cubic metre or higher will trigger an Air Quality Notification from the EPA. At this level those with cardio-respiratory conditions such as asthma, especially children, should initiate their action plan and consider whether participation in an active game is safe for them.

   ii. A $PM^{2.5}$ measurements of more than 100 micrograms per cubic metre would likely make exercising outdoors uncomfortable for even those without a cardio-respiratory condition, and umpires should consider delaying or suspending play until conditions improve, or abandoning play.

   Air-quality readings should not take the place of the subjective assessment of conditions by umpires at individual grounds. Readings are taken at selected weather base stations around the state, and depending on the prevailing weather system, conditions could be markedly different at cricket grounds in the area. The data should only be used to support decision-making.

**MORE INFORMATION:**
For more information on air quality, outdoor smoke and health alerts, please consult the resources listed below:

**Department of Health and Human Services:**
https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/alerts/air/bushfire_smoke.
https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/air

**EPA Real-Time Air Quality Data**
http://epa.tas.gov.au/epa/real-time-air-quality-data-for-tasmania

**AirRater APP – for Android or iOS devices**
http://airrater.org/

**TasAlert**
http://www.alert.tas.gov.au/